

NPS Workgroup Meeting Notes  
4/11/17

State Updates

RI

WRP in progress, flood control with ecological restoration stormwater in non MS4 areas  
Increasing size of wetland buffers  
Aligning MWQ work with TMDLs  
Coming up with standards for agriculture water quality based on VT's standards  
Eric Beck – chief of groundwater and wetland protection  
National Geographic show “Parched” episode “Toxic Waters” on PFCs – suggested watch

CT

Received FY 17 Section 319 proposals  
Enhancing N removal to LIS using nitrogen strategy  
UConn CLEAR hired to do outreach to communities on nitrogen and new MS4 permit  
Consultant Lombardo will be contracted to look at septic N loading to Long Island Sound embayments  
Completed report to the CT legislature on reducing NPS sources of P in CT waters.  
Working with EPA to develop a Model to predict HABs with Tetra Tech  
Updated the CT Guidance on HABs to reflect new EPA recommendations  
Assistant Direct Rob Hust – retired

NH

Submitted 2015 program report to EPA and hoping to submit 2016 this quarter  
Hoping to hire a stormwater coordinator  
There are 43 active projects and 10 projects getting finalized in the next couple weeks  
Not issuing a 2017 RFP because there were so many quality proposals from the previous year, instead  
have selected 6 of those projects to be funded  
2 604(b) grant agreements approved, hopefully a third will be approved in the next week  
WAG Warren Brook Restoration completed, Nutt Pond boat ramp completed, reduction of erosion and  
runoff from parking area  
Soak up the Rain program – lessons learned presented, water quality training for landscapers, video  
finalized, rain garden maintenance plan  
Suncook River Stabilization project out to bid soon  
Salt certification program trainings ongoing  
MS4 final permit requirements presented  
Facilitating municipalities working together to identify standardized and defensible approaches to  
permit compliance.  
SRF 14 municipalities moving forward to full proposal for CWSRF asset management  
NPS program planning dirt/gravel road program  
P tap initiative Great Bay – tracking local NPS activities in a standardized way, developing a tracking  
database

MA

RFR out despite questionable funding  
Stormwater collaboratives  
Helping with MS4

20 projects closing 6/30

Effectiveness monitoring didn't show measurable results, looked at previous data and are publishing success stories

Hands on work with farmers

Watershed based plan web tool nearing completion

VT

Clean water fund allocated to 88 projects

Agricultural partners database for nutrient load reduction

Develop clean water report

Tracking work farmers are doing to comply with new requirements

ME

Norm retired

Updated guidelines for grants Guidelines for updating WBPs so that they are eligible for 319

Annual report under internal review

604b RFP out now, expect to fund 1-2 projects

319 RFP will be released mid-May

Closed out 15 projects 12/16. Have 30 active projects, 12 are just starting in 2017

Updating NPS Program QAPP

2 new nine element plans for impaired waters

Urban streams – lessons learned to target largest stressors

Lake protection part of NPS management plan

Clean water SRF identified need for groundwater NPS sources – old USTs are a threat. Loans for small gas stations to replace tanks before they fail

Legislative proposal submitted to continue bond funding for stream crossing and culvert upgrades

Bill for NPS bond to provide 50% cost sharing on projects that correct downstream pollution

Bill for Youth conservation corps funding

Bill to require septic inspection upon property transfer inland, already required in coastal shoreland areas, but need inspection standards

EPA

- 1) FY 17 Budget: A Continuing Resolution (CR) is in effect until April 28<sup>th</sup> ; we should know more about the FY 17 budget in early May.
- 2) FY 18 Budget: EPA staff can only discuss the budget blueprint released in mid-March; we are not authorized to discuss embargoed documents even any that may be in the public domain.
  - The President's 2018 budget blueprint proposes EPA funding of \$5.65 billion and approximately 3200 fewer positions, which represents a 31 percent reduction from levels contained in the annualized 2017 Continuing Resolution. Funding reductions were made across all domestic agencies to support the President's objective to increase funding for defense, homeland security, and veterans programs.
  - It is important to remember that we are in the early stages of a long budget development process, and funding levels will not be finalized until Congress acts on an Agency appropriation, likely many months from now.
  - We are aware how difficult and deeply distressing the budget uncertainty makes things

right now and we wish we had some answers. We will share reliable information as soon as we are able to (we will likely know more after the President's full budget is released, as expected in mid-May; then a many months-long negotiation will follow); we will also think about any appropriate contingencies after we have the budget details in hand. Until then-- our work continues.

#### DOCUMENTS/TOOLS/OPPORTUNITIES:

- 1) GRTS Training: We hope you found it helpful. We appreciate Adam Jorge, Beth Edwards and Nicole for arranging it.
- 2) National Nonpoint Source Program—a Catalyst for Water Quality Improvements: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-10/documents/nps\\_program\\_highlights\\_report-508.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-10/documents/nps_program_highlights_report-508.pdf) was released by EPA HQ right before the national NPS program meeting in Boston. It includes helpful program statistics and quotes from some project personnel around the country.
- 3) Financing Options for Nontraditional Eligibilities in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-05/documents/financing\\_options\\_for\\_nontraditional\\_eligibilities\\_final.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-05/documents/financing_options_for_nontraditional_eligibilities_final.pdf) [At the time of the NPS annual meeting, this was draft; it was released May 2017]. We hope this document spurs interest in using CWSRF funds for NPS. Recall we encouraged all states to include mention of CWSRF in NPS Management Plans upgrades three years ago. (We are pleased that Maine used approx. \$5 million in CWSRF for NPS in FY 15, and is interested in increasing CWSRF funds for NPS).
- 4) NRCS Data Requests (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/about/acc/reports/>) Fred Suffian (EPA R3) mentioned on a recent EPA Regional NPS coordinators call that he used this data request portal successfully. His data request included a water supply watershed in Delaware and 8 or 10 HUC 12s (sites of FY 2013-2016 implementation projects). Next, he plans to request data at the HUC 16 scale. Fred envisions that these data could be useful in some state NPS annual reports. Lynda has observed that USDA created this tool because of sustained and consistent calls for data; she recommended that states explore the process as well.
- 5) Hazard Mitigation Planning and Funds: FEMA has funding available for green infrastructure/hazard mitigation. HQ encourages state NPS coordinators to talk with state hazard mitigation officers; they've been working with FEMA and some Regions to increase the profile of green infrastructure in Hazard Mitigation Plans and watershed based plans.
- 6) Preliminary Healthy Waters Assessments State-Specific Products: HQ has been working on these for a year and a half. Soon, states will receive a package with state-specific information. States are not expected to conduct exhaustive reviews.
- 7) Success Story Database: New system will be cued up soon. HQ will offer mini-tutorials to help guide people through the new process.
- 8) NPS Tech Exchange: HQ expects to do more with community forums and tech exchange. More to come.
- 9) NPS Management Plan Updates: Pretty soon states will be working on their next NPS program updates. Please take some time to think about what isn't working in your current plan, and to identify any new priority areas.
- 10) 2016 Highlights of Progress: Responses to Climate Change by the National Water Program: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017->

01/documents/2016\_nwp\_climate\_highlights\_report\_final\_1.pdf

Recall we encouraged states to incorporate climate change/resiliency considerations into their NPS management plan updates. Region 1 included that highlight in this national report.

Climate change report by National Water Program – all New England states involved on NPS portion

FEMA GEI planning hazard mitigation for watershed based plans

National NPS program success stories in report

Preliminary healthy watersheds assessment released, working on a communication plan

National data sets assessing country's watershed health planning tool

Green infrastructure (natural and built) integrating in to Clean Water Act programs

Office of sustainable communities technical workshops

RAIN database update

Term "climate change" being phased out. Recommended terms "Evolving risk" "resilience"  
"infrastructure"

FEMA promoting green infrastructure in hazard mitigation plans

GiWiz tool to find green infrastructure tools

DRAFT